

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of processing a digital image for user assessment of an output image product intended to be generated using the digital image, comprising the steps of:

(a) accessing the digital image using an imaging device having a viewing member;

(b) selecting the output image product intended to include the digital image;

(c) digitally modifying at least a portion of the digital image using the imaging device to produce a substantially accurate representation of at least a portion of the output image product; and

(d) displaying, using the viewing member, for assessment by the user, the substantially accurate representation of the at least a portion of the output image product.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the imaging device is a digital camera, and the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by capturing the digital image using the digital camera.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the imaging device is a kiosk, and the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by accessing the digital image from a removable medium.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by scanning a visual image to produce the digital image.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by downloading the digital image over a communications network.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by accessing the digital image from a removable media.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accessing the digital image is accomplished by accessing the digital image from a digital camera in communication with the imaging device.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the viewing member is a display.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the viewing member is a printer adapted to produce a hardcopy print.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the imaging device is a digital camera, and the step of selecting the output image product is accomplished by defaulting to storing a captured image in the digital camera.

11. A method of processing a digital image for user assessment of an output image product intended to be generated using the digital image, comprising the steps of:

(a) accessing the digital image using an imaging device having a viewing member comprising a first and second display portion;

(b) selecting the output image product intended to include the digital image;

(c) digitally modifying at least a portion of the digital image using the imaging device to produce a substantially accurate representation of at least a portion of the output image of the output image product;

(d) displaying, in the first display portion, for assessment by the user, the substantially accurate representation of the at least a portion of the output image; and

(e) displaying, in the second display portion, a reference image for comparative assessment by the user.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the reference image is supplied by the user.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the reference image comprises an acceptable image quality.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the reference image comprises substantially similar content to the content of the digital image.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the reference image is supplied by a manufacturer of the imaging device.

16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the reference image is derived from a computer generated object.

17. The method of Claim 11, wherein the imaging device is a digital camera, and the step of selecting the output image product is accomplished by defaulting to storing a captured image in the digital camera.

18. A method of processing a digital image captured using a digital camera wherein a resolution of the captured digital image is higher than a

display of the digital camera so as to provide a user with a representation of the captured image for image assessment, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying the captured digital image in a display of the digital camera, the display having a predetermined resolution, the captured digital image having a test area comprised of at least a portion of the captured digital image; and

(b) displaying, using the display, the test area at a resolution between about one-half to about two times the predetermined resolution to provide the user with a representation of an output image which would be produced using an output device.

19. A method of processing a digital image captured using a digital camera wherein a resolution of the captured digital image is higher than a display of the digital camera so as to provide a user with a representation of the captured image for image assessment, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying the captured digital image in a display of the digital camera, the display having a predetermined resolution, the captured digital image having a test area comprised of at least a portion of the captured digital image; and

(b) displaying, using the display, the test area at the predetermined resolution to provide the user with a representation of an output image which would be produced using an output device.

20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of providing an indication to the user that the test area is being displayed at the predetermined resolution.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein the indication is provided using the display.

22. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of the user selecting the test area.

23. The method of Claim 19, wherein the test area comprises a center portion of the captured image.

24. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of the digital camera selecting the test area in accordance with predetermined parameters.

25. A method of processing a digital image captured using a digital camera to provide a user with a representation of the captured image for image assessment, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying the captured digital image in a display of the digital camera, the captured digital image having a test area comprised of a portion of the captured digital image, the display having a predetermined display resolution and a first and second display portion;

(b) displaying, in the first display portion, the test area at the predetermined display resolution to provide the user with a representation of an output image which would be produced using an output device; and

(c) displaying a reference image in the second display portion for comparative assessment by the user.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the reference image comprises an acceptable image quality.

27. The method of Claim 25, wherein the reference image comprises a resolution substantially equal to the predetermined display resolution.

28. The method of Claim 25, wherein the reference image comprises a resolution ranging from about -20 percent to about +20 percent of the predetermined display resolution.

29. A method of processing a digital image for user assessment of an output image product intended to be generated using the digital image, comprising the steps of:

(a) accessing the digital image using an imaging device having a viewing member;

(b) selecting the output image product intended to include the digital image;

(c) digitally modifying at least a portion of the digital image using the imaging device to produce a substantially accurate representation of at least a portion of the output image product;

(d) displaying, using the viewing member, for assessment by the user, the substantially accurate representation of the at least a portion of the output image product; and

(e) displaying, using the viewing member, a reference image for comparative assessment by the user.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the substantially accurate representation and the reference image are displayed simultaneously.

31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the substantially accurate representation and the reference image are alternately displayed.

32. A computer storage product having at least one computer storage medium having instructions stored therein causing one or more computers to perform the method of Claim 1.

33. An imaging device for processing a digital image for user assessment of an output image product intended to be generated using the digital image, comprising:

- (a) input means for accessing the digital image;
- (b) selection means for selecting the output image product intended to include the digital image;
- (c) processing means for digitally modifying at least a portion of the digital image using the imaging device to produce a substantially accurate representation of at least a portion of the output image product; and
- (d) a viewing member for displaying the substantially accurate representation of the at least a portion of the output image product for assessment by the user.

34. The imaging device of Claim 33, further comprising query means for querying the user as to whether to generate the output image product.